



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD AREA RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 262 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; and WILLIAM FEITHEN, DeKalb Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **LONZA WILSON**, also known as "Yak," 30 (DOB: 5/02/74), formerly of 1827 Chestnut Street, Rockford, Illinois, to 262 months in federal prison without parole for his role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute cocaine and "crack" cocaine. In addition to his prison sentence, the court ordered Wilson to serve 10 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and pay a \$250 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

Wilson pleaded guilty on February 4, 2005. At the time of his guilty plea, Wilson admitted that between November 2002 and February 2004, he conspired with others to distribute cocaine. Specifically, Wilson admitted that he and co-defendant Michael Fricks, operated an illegal cocaine trafficking organization with Michael Fricks to distribute cocaine, and that Fricks would obtain cocaine from his suppliers and, in turn, supply it to Wilson and others. Wilson admitted that between November 2002 and February 2004, he was supplied approximately 1/8 to 1/4 kilograms of cocaine about every 14 days from Fricks, for a total of at least 5 kilograms. Wilson acknowledged that Fricks provided him with the cocaine on credit, commonly referred to as "fronting" the drugs. Wilson would sell the cocaine to others and then pay Fricks. Wilson further admitted that he was involved in "cooking" the powder cocaine into crack cocaine he sold to customers.

The two other defendants charged in the federal indictment have also pled guilty:

JERRY WILSON, 27 (DOB: 5/16/1977), formerly of 3854 Thyme, Rockford, Illinois, pled guilty on May 28, 2004, to conspiring to distribute cocaine and cocaine base. Wilson has not yet been sentenced. He is being held in federal custody without bail pending sentencing.

MICHAEL FRICKS, 34 (DOB: 10/09/1970), formerly of 6311 Forrest Hills Road, Rockford, Illinois, pled guilty February 17, 2005, in Rockford federal court to conspiring to manufacture and

distribute cocaine and crack cocaine. Fricks has not yet been sentenced. He is being held in federal custody without bail pending sentencing.

Michael Fricks and Jerry Wilson each face a mandatory minimum penalty of twenty years of imprisonment, a maximum possible penalty of life imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$8,000,000, and a term of supervised release following their release from prison of at least ten years and up to life. The actual sentence for each defendant will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The indictment was the result of a nine-month investigation by the Rockford DEA Task Force consisting of law enforcement agents and officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the Belvidere Police Department, and the DeKalb Police Department.

This case is being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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